Arts

Philosophy at SGWU

Full-Time Staff

Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department
Vladimir Zeman, Ph.D. (Prague) - History of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science

Professors
Stanley G. French, Ph.D. (Virginia) - Analytic Philosophy, Political Philosophy
Paul Germain, Ph.D. (Laval) - History of Philosophy, Philosophy and Technology
Dallas Laskey, Ph.D. (Harvard) - Phenomenology, Epistemology

Associate Professors
Roger B. Angel, Ph.D. (McGill) - Philosophy of Science, Logic
Robert E. Carter, Ph.D. (Toronto) - History of Philosophy, Ethics
M. Mobin Ahmad, Ph.D. (Chicago) - Ethics, History of Philosophy

Assistant Professors
Christine Garside, Ph.D. (Claremont) - Existentialism, Analytic Philosophy
Jack Ornstein, Ph.D. (California) - Philosophy of Mind, Philosophical Psychology

Collegial Instructor
Sheila Mullett, Ph.D. (Purdue) - Ethics, Analytic Philosophy

Nature and Objectives of Programs and Courses in Philosophy

Philosophy is the systematic attempt to understand the individual, his world, and reality. Whether reason itself can yield such knowledge is a basic philosophical question. Perhaps alternative ways of knowing, such as intuition, experience or revelation are necessary. Philosophers vary widely in formulating a position on these issues.

Philosophy questions basic principles, assumptions and prejudices. What is the good life? Is man free? Is beauty in the object? Is the mind distinguishable from the body? Is the universe orderly or chaotic? Are there any necessary rules of logical thinking?

Philosophy and Other Disciplines

Philosophy benefits students of other disciplines by providing a view which is unobtainable from within the discipline itself. What is sought is an understanding of the philosophical foundations of their specific discipline, close scrutiny of the principles and postulates and their philosophic import, and an understanding of the relationships between disciplines.

Undergraduate Programs

Honours and Joint-honours Programs
The Honours program is primarily designed for those who intend to continue their study of Philosophy at the graduate level. The achievement of an honours or joint-honours degree in Philosophy peculiarly prepares one for scholarship not only in Philosophy, Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Philosophy and Science and Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic but also in History of Ideas, Humanities programs, Law, Religion, Literature and Education.

Major and Joint-Major Programs
Major and Joint-Major programs prepare students for further study in disciplines in the Humanities, the Social Sciences or the Natural and Exact Sciences.

It is sometimes and untruly said that if one studies Philosophy his only profession can be the teaching of it. Students of Philosophy enter such fields as Social Work, Law, Education and Language. It is not uncommon for a student with a background in Philosophy to find employment as an editor, journalist, librarian or in government service.

Note: *The W.R. Fraser Medal* is awarded yearly to the graduating student with the highest standing in Philosophy courses.

Other Programs

Graduate Program

The Department has an M.A. program which is open to all students with an honours degree in Philosophy or equivalent. For those who obtained their B.A. in another discipline, a Qualifying Year program is available.

Emphasis of the curriculum is on Contemporary Philosophy. The main area problems covered are: Hume, Plato, Rousseau, Modern Logic, Ethical Theory, Political Theory, Categorial Frameworks, Philosophy of Science, Husserl, Wittgenstein, Structuralism, and Selected Topics in Current Research.

The program is offered in the late afternoon and evening or on Saturday morning, thus making it available to both full-time and part-time students.

Special Summer Institute

Each summer courses are offered in July and August by visiting professors from universities in America and Europe. These are third and fourth year courses and usually count for graduate credit as well.

Activities and Information
Philosophy Club

This club is a student organization with an executive elected by the Philosophy community. The aim of this society is to provide social and academic programs of interest to students in Philosophy. The social events consist of various summer and winter outings, coffee parties and other activities. The academic program provides a number of guest lecturers from other universities.

For further information please contact:
Dr. P. Germain (879-7247) - Majors Advisor
Dr. R.E. Carter (879-4512) - Honours Advisor
Dr. D. Laskey (879-5833) - Graduate Program Advisor